



## **Create jobs, cut spending, gain energy independence**

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The most important issue on the minds of all Americans is how to get our economy moving again to create jobs. I share the concerns of many Americans on how to end the out-of-control government spending that is threatening both the economic and national security of our nation. The price of gasoline is on the rise and soon families, who have already been hit hard by this economy, will be facing higher prices at the pump once again.

This year, I will continue to serve on the Small Business Committee, the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee. What I have found is that if you are not on a committee relevant to the issues you are working on, it is very difficult to pass legislation. I'm working on other more narrowly focused issues to address a variety of constituent concerns, but the following are the major themes of my 2011 agenda.

### **Jobs and the economy**

My 17 years of experience as a successful small business owner has landed me a leadership position on the Small Business Committee. My goal this year is to evaluate all of the programs and policies that impact small business, starting with the Small Business Administration (SBA). After determining the effectiveness, or likely in some cases the ineffectiveness, I will get rid of the programs that aren't working to help small businesses create jobs and strengthen the ones that are.

## **Cut spending to balance the budget**

The greatest threat to our nation's security is not from outside the United States, but is the mounting debt piled high by a total lack of fiscal discipline by Congress.

A balanced budget amendment to our constitution passed the House in 1995, but failed in the Senate by one vote. I am the chairman of the Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus, and I'm working hard to pass an amendment to the constitution requiring Congress to balance its budget, and force the federal government to stop spending money we don't have.

In Washington, I don't see any signs that the economy is struggling. Members of Congress, along with the federal workforce, have largely been immune from the hardships many Americans face in this difficult economy. Even many public employees at the state and local level have been subjected to unpaid days off called "furlough days" in order to close budget gaps.

My bill, H.R. 270 will first require members of Congress to cut their pay by over \$17,000, mandate a five percent cut in their budgets, and require all federal employees who are not involved in national security or public and health safety to be furloughed for two nonconsecutive weeks. The total savings is estimated to be \$5.5 billion, but more importantly, it shows that Members of Congress and the federal workforce are not above what the rest of the country is going through.

## **Developing our resources**

I strongly believe that we should have an "all of the above" strategy when it comes to moving our country down the path toward energy independence. The United States has extraordinary reserves of both oil and particularly natural gas, and I think it's imperative that we responsibly develop our own resources. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I will lead the charge to responsibly develop our energy resources on public lands. Doing so will not only create the jobs, but also will strengthen the dollar by reducing our trade deficit.

## National security

No doubt, I believe in maintaining a strong defense. However, I also believe our military is far too top heavy. I have a record as a fiscal conservative, and along with my military expertise I am uniquely qualified to find efficiencies by cutting the waste out of the Pentagon's budget without, in any way, compromising the war-fighting capabilities of our military. By cutting the overhead, we will enhance our capabilities by lifting heavy bureaucratic burdens off of the backs of our war fighters.

Nothing in the budget can be exempt when it comes to reining in spending. As a combat veteran from both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War, and having served for over twenty years between the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps Reserve, I bring a strong and diverse background to the House Armed Services Committee. This background gives me credibility among my Congressional colleagues and the military to move us to a leaner and more effective Department of Defense.

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